

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 637  
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Wayne G. Basler upon his induction into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Wayne G. Basler, General Partner in BC Realty of Kingsport, Tennessee, who has recently been honored as an inductee into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an astute businessman in the Kingsport area, Mr. Basler began cultivating his keen business skills and strong work ethic at a young age when he worked on his grandparents' farm raising fruits, vegetables, and a variety of animals and crops; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mr. Basler attended Iowa State on a football scholarship and graduated with a degree in ceramic engineering; he believes that playing football taught him a number of valuable things, the most significant being teamwork; and

WHEREAS, upon beginning his first job with Ford Motor Company, Mr. Basler became acquainted with the technology of glass in the Ford Glass Division, which was the third largest glass company in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with Ford Motor Company in Iowa, Wayne Basler's career took him to many different places, including Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Nashville, Tennessee, and West Virginia before arriving in Kingsport; his professional career includes jobs with Ford Motor Company, the United States Air Force, Alcoa, Guardian Industries, Fourco Glass Company, and AFG Industries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Basler returned to Ford Motor Company in 1960 and proceeded to change the glass industry forever as he successfully accomplished a professional challenge to reinvent British firm Pilkington's float glass process; Wayne Basler's reinvented process is far superior to the original process and continues to be used throughout the world today; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable professional was recruited by Fourco Glass's R.D. Hubbard during a time of near bankruptcy to help make the company profitable again; emboldened by his commendable business success with Fourco Glass, Mr. Basler, along with R.D. Hubbard and Fred Cason, founded AFG Industries, which grew to be the second largest glass company in the United States in 1978; and

WHEREAS, he served with distinction as the President and in other positions with AFG Industries, until the company was sold to a global company in 1992; and

WHEREAS, an avid supporter of education, Mr. Basler has served as President of the East Tennessee State University Foundation and as an Executive Committee member and on the Board of Visitors for the College of Applied Science and Technology; and

WHEREAS, he also lends his valuable time and talents to his community and its youth through the funding of education with such self-initiated programs as the Incentive Scholarship, which supports first-time, full-time new students who have demonstrated high performance, not necessarily in the academic world but in other areas; the AFG Industries, Incorporated, Chair of Excellence, which focuses on entrepreneurship and business development; and the Wayne G. Basler Chair of Excellence in arts and sciences to provide outstanding scholars to work with students; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Mr. Basler's commitment to the youth of his community, Northeast State Technical Community College in Blountville dedicated its library to Wayne Basler in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wayne Basler epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Basler is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his three children, Eric Basler, Janelle Basler Green, and Peter Basler, and his four grandchildren, Ashton, Ashley, Michael, and Madeline; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Wayne Basler for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Wayne Basler upon his induction into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame, thank him for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.